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## STATUS OF SCHOOL FUND CERTIFICATES OF DEBT.

The "little" that his excellency found remaining to be said by him in amplification of the "auditor's report" upon the management of the public school fund for the last 45 years starts off with this remark:

"The form of investment of the school fund was changed under the several acts to which he (the auditor) has referred, from the bond form of indebtedness to the certificate form of indebtedness. Both forms of indebtedness are in contemplation of the constitution bond forms of liability, and the question naturally arises why the state should have exchanged from the one form to the other."

This statement, if true, however little it may add to the "auditor's report," is all-sufficient for the question at issue. If it is true, as alleged, that both forms of indebtedness are in contemplation of the constitution bond forms of obligation, then it follows as a matter of course, that in that same contemplation of the constitution there was no change of the investment of the assets of the school fund, and all inquiry as to the constitutionality of such a transaction is more than idle—it is absurd.

### A BEAUTIFUL CONTRADICTION.

But we are also informed by the sentence preceding the one that contains this assertion that notwithstanding this identity of the two forms there actually was a change. It is this peculiarity of the "little" that his excellency found to add to the report of the auditor—that there was and there was not a change at one and the same time of the assets of the school fund—that makes it necessary for us to look further into this subject.

Nor can we be deterred from this by the fact that no political party has ever mentioned the subject in a convention, deeming it as we do, not merely the privilege, but the solemn duty of every citizen, however humble he may be, to keep himself informed in regard to public affairs, and also to add his mite to the information of the public to the extent of his ability.

Besides, while his excellency seems to claim the calling of public attention to public affairs as the exclusive prerogative of party conventions, he ought to remember that the discussion of this subject grew out of the claim by the party that nominated him, in solemn convention assembled, that they had reduced the debt of the state "until only \$2,637,000 remained to be paid." It was this statement, presented to the public with all the solemnity which his excellency seems to require, that was called in question by the editor of the State Republican, in a speech at Gallatin, Mo., Dockery's own town during the last campaign. He showed, or attempted to show, that this claim was not true, and could not be true, according to the evidence of the public documents in the hands of the people, furnished by the very party itself, unless they intended to repudiate their obligations to the public school fund of the state. Gov. Dockery will remember that neither he nor his party claimed at the time "that certificate and bond were in contemplation of the constitution bond forms of obligation," for if they or he had so claimed, what would have become of their other claim, "that only \$2,637,000 remains to be paid," when, in truth and fact, the sum would have amounted to \$7,034,294.83?

## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION LIED.

It is, therefore, evident that even if his excellency's claim of exclusive prerogative on behalf of party conventions be allowed, still, even in that case, the intruder could not, in common fairness, be charged with impertinence or arrogance and denied a further hearing. It was the convention that nominated Mr. Dockery that lied in its platform, and the extent of the editor's offense was that he did not believe that lie nor intend that it should mislead the public unchallenged.

Nor is he to be deterred by this afterthought of his excellency that "in contemplation of the constitution" there was no change in the investment of the assets of the school fund, however clearly that contemplation may be in contradiction of his own party platform when it states the sum total of the bonded indebtedness still to be paid at \$2,637,000; for, in fairness to the democratic party, it ought to be reminded that it could not know at that time what its candidate's contemplation might make of the constitution a whole year afterward. All they claimed was that they had reduced a debt of \$21,788,000 to \$2,637,000 by economic administration of public affairs. They could not know that their candidate, when drawn in a corner by the question: "What became of the assets of the school fund?" would deem it the shortest way out to say that it had been merged with the bonded debt of the state, and that in contemplation of the constitution, the convention either did not know what it was talking about or did not care; that, in point of fact, the bonded debt consisted, at the time the convention spoke, of \$7,034,294.83, instead of \$2,637,000; that the bonded debt was not reduced to \$2,637,000 by economic administration of public affairs, but by taking \$2,397,533, minus \$3,445.94, out of the school and seminary funds, leaving a deficit in these two funds, as witnessed by certificates of indebtedness, of \$4,393,539.43.

### SCHOOL FUND ASSETS.

Now, whoever may be correct in this contention between the convention and its creating, his present excellency, one thing, the editor believes, is perfectly correct, and that is that the present assets of the state school fund consist not of \$3,158,937.40, but of the magnificent sum of \$973.40 in the currency of the realm, and a deficit of \$3,159,090, and this, we believe, not because the present auditor says so in his statement, vouched for by Chicago and New York experts, but because the democratic general assembly did, in the year of our Lord, 1901, submit an amendment to the constitution asking the people to vote upon themselves a tax of three cents on the \$100 to make good this deficit. For the same reason we do also believe that the assets of the seminary fund consist not of the sum of \$2,482.06, and evidences of a deficit for the balance—that is, for \$1,235,839.42. While we believe this for the reason stated, we do not believe that the deficits in the assets of the school and seminary funds, amounting to \$4,393,539.43, were used to redeem bonds of the state, or in the reduction of the bonded debt of the state; nor that the funds ever had assets consisting in bonds of the state to that amount, and for this belief we have nothing to offer but the statement of the present auditor, vouched for, of course, as stated above, and the act of March 31, 1893.—Mo. S. R.

C. W. Covington's barn 3 miles west of Mineola was struck by lightning last Thursday about 7:30 p. m. and together with the contents was totally destroyed. Two extra good horses were in the barn at the time and both killed. Mr. Covington was badly burned about the face and hands while he and his two daughters were trying to remove a buggy from the burning structure. Mr. Covington's loss is very heavy as the insurance on the barn is said to have been very light. It is remarkable how quick this barn was burned after it was struck. Mr. Covington was at the house at the time and saw the lightning strike the barn and ran there at once and only succeeded in getting out the surry and the top of it being badly burned.

### Despair Over Majority Rule.

It is amusing to notice the persistency with which the Republic blames lobby operations in the Missouri senate upon the nine Republican members, who are somehow supposed by our humorous contemporary to control the action of the twenty-five Democratic members. A majority of the senate is eighteen, and if all the Republican senators are present they can muster only half enough votes to transact business. The Republic argues that "a compact minority can stop the progress of almost any measure upon which its opposition is centered." Is the public to understand that the nine Republicans in the state senate can stop the passage of any bill regardless of the wishes of the twenty-five Democrats? Were this true the nine Republican senators would have defeated the Nesbit law and the gerrymander by which their party is allowed but one congressman in sixteen. The nine Republicans count for nothing with the twenty-five Democrats and could do nothing for the lobby unless nine Democrats joined in with them. Even in that case sixteen other Democrats would form the minority, and what is to hinder the sixteen from being "compact" enough to defeat the lobby designs?

In pursuing the theme the Republic remarks that "the Republican press can not dodge behind the subterfuge of majority responsibility in a case like this." Never before in the history of American politics was majority responsibility called a subterfuge. Majority responsibility is a bedrock fact. If a party upon which a majority is conferred can not legislate it is a failure, and the people must look around for an organization able to act when it has the most votes. It is farcical to tell Missourians that a lobby is supreme at Jefferson City because there are nine Republicans in a senate composed of thirty-four members, and that majority rule under such circumstances can be merely a subterfuge. The lobby has grown up in this state under Democratic majorities in the legislature and under Democratic state officials who busy themselves with lobby work. The lobby is the creation of the Democratic ring and will fall when the ring falls.—G. D.

The B. F. P. club met at the palatial home of Miss Clarice Johnson, and were royally entertained. After indulging in the game of progressive peanuts, we were served delicious refreshments. The prizes were won by two of our most prominent members, Edmee Stanhardt and Merrell Jordan. After a late hour, we departed to our many homes.

## Commercial Club.

The Commercial Club met Monday night with only a fair attendance. The good roads movement took up nearly all the time. While the progress along this line has been slow, yet the Committee, having it in charge, feel that it has been sure.

The proposition is up to the people and they must make it go. We feel that the road is going to be success, but in order for us to attain the full measure of success, we must push the movement hard.

Every business man in town should be active in the work of the Club. The man, who is not, stands in his own light. Come in, and shoulder your part of the burden, and you will feel better.

Co. F will give an outdoor drill free to the public at the old fair ground, Saturday afternoon, May 24. The Company will assemble at its drill hall at 3:30 p. m. on that date for this purpose. This was decided at a business meeting of the Company held after the drill Tuesday night. The attendance at the weekly drills is good, and the progress being made, excellent.

### Train Ran 180 Miles in 180 Minutes

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 16.—The Continental Limited on the Wabash Railroad has made a new record from Tilton to Granite City, making 180 miles in 180 minutes. This was with five stops—three station stops, one to change engines and one to take on coal. The actual running time was two hours and thirty-eight minutes. The run from Danville to Decatur, 71.6 miles, was made in 70 minutes, including stops at Tolono and Beament.

Wallace Romboough and James Gleason of St. Louis, came up Saturday and went out to Middletown to visit relatives.

Last Friday, Mrs. Maggie Dandford and Masters Lowell and Russell returned from a few days visit to her mother in Kansas City. There she met her sister, Mrs. Bettie Anderson and family, who were enroute to their new home in Pueblo, Colo.

### Throws in a lecture.

Judge Swartout, of Osage county, is not one of those probate judges who marry people with a slap and a dash and make jokes about kissing the bride. He looks upon the ceremony as something that should be made solemn and impressive, and it is his custom to deliver a little address to bridal couples. The other day a young man and woman came before him and were duly joined. Then he spoke to them as follows, bringing tears to the eyes of both:

"Life is just what you make it. There are two paths, one to the right and the other to the left. One is full of thorns, rocks and dangers. There are sorrows, troubles and tears. In the other way there is sunshine and joy and pleasure. Birds are singing in the tree tops and flowers are blooming by the wayside. You can take either way you wish. It is for you to determine which path you will pursue. But, oh, let me advise you to take the right way and make no mistake and to take the better way where there is joy and love. I don't know, I may never see you either of you again but it would grieve me to know that ever I had joined a couple in the holy bonds of wedlock that were unsuited to each other and made of life a failure."—K. C. Journal.

## Davidson-Uptegrove.

Married at the Cottage Hotel in this city Wednesday May 7, 1902 at 11:30 a. m. Mr. Minott Davidson and Miss Maude Uptegrove of near Middletown, Rev. J. B. White of Wellsville officiating.

The bride is the only daughter of Thos. B. Uptegrove, and a highly accomplished young lady a favorite among her many friends.

The groom is a son of Wm. Davidson, a young man of many good qualities, energetic and ambitious.

Minott and wife will make their home with his parents where he has charge of the farm.

The Tribune joins their many friends in wishing that they may live long and happy.

### Ballard-Melcher.

On Sunday, the 4th of May, 1902, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Ballard of this city, the parents of the bridegroom, Mr. Martin Luther Ballard and Miss Rosa B. Melcher, both of the city of St. Louis, Mo. The marriage was solemnized by Rev. R. S. Duncan.

Mr. Ballard is an employee in the Hamilton-Brown Shoe Company. The bridal party returned to St. Louis on the excursion train in the evening, the same which brought them up here from the city that morning.

Three brothers of the groom accompanied them here.

### Hibbert-Clarkston.

Married at the Central Hotel in New Florence, Wednesday May 7, at 4:30 p. m. Mr. Walter Hibbert and Miss Annie Clarkston both of this city, Rev. J. E. Kerr officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Hibbert came to this place yesterday and have rooms at Mrs. Walkers.

The Tribune extends congratulations.

The regular May term of Circuit Court opened here Monday. The grand jury was empaneled Monday forenoon. The petit jury is summoned to appear to-day. A number of important cases will be disposed of during the term, and a detailed report of the proceedings will be given next week.

Burton & Crump have installed a soda fountain in their drug store and are ready to serve you all kinds of cool drinks.

A Sock Social will be given by the Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist church at Mr. John Evered's Friday night May 16. A general invitation is extended.

Dr. and Mrs. Dryden, who were the guests of the Dr.'s father at this place, left Monday for Michigan to visit Mrs. Dryden's relatives.

We want your trade on anything you want in Dry Goods, Notions, Shoes, Hats, Clothing, &c, and will guarantee you a saving of 10 percent. Try us.

Gove's, Montgomery City.

The Buttercup club was entertained by Mrs. John Chadwick Friday evening. Prizes were won by Mrs. R. S. Paul, Mrs. C. C. Crump, and Mrs. C. M. Wilson.

## CIRCUIT COURT.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.  
Montgomery City.—First Monday in May and Second Monday in November.  
Danville.—Fourth Monday in April and First Monday in November.

## PROBATE COURT.

Montgomery City.—Third Monday in Jan., April, July and Oct.  
Danville.—First Monday in March, June, Sept. and Dec.

## COUNTY COURT.

Montgomery City.—First Monday in Feb., June, Sept., and December.  
Danville.—First Monday in Feb., August and Nov. May.